



ABOYNE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
Committee Meeting  
30 May 2017, 8.00pm  
4 Selby Avenue, St Albans

Present:

Fiona Couper (Chair)                      Julia Duschenes (Sec)  
Barry Cropper (Vice-Chair)              Christine McLauchlan

**1. Welcome**

FC welcomed the committee.

**2. Apologies for Absence**

Sue Noon and Nigel Gale sent apologies.

**3. Minutes of the Last Committee Meeting** (23 March 2017) Spellings of McLauchlan and City Neighbourhoods Committee were corrected and the rest agreed for accuracy.

**4. Matters Arising** (not already on Agenda)

Group photo to be taken when all next present.

HGVs in the area: There are still no signs up in Britton Avenue. FC to chase.

FC

**5. Treasurer's Report**

As NG was unable to attend, there was no report this meeting.

**6. Comms Report**

6.1. FC felt that there was a danger of floods of emails about the current concerns (parking and 3 Russell Ave) but that it was better to keep committee informed than not to know. However, **messages should be blind copied to those not directly involved.**

ALL

6.2. Collection of email data needs to be done and updated. FC & CM to set a date in Sept/Oct to collect a token £1 subscription and the data. CM to begin initial update over the summer.

The Newsletter has been overtaken by events and news circulation covered by emails on specific subjects.

FC & BC will cover each other's absences. CM to check emails until 1 July.

CM

**7. Planning**

7.1. 3 Russell Avenue Meeting of concerned locals took place last week (Peter Trevelyan (Civic Society), Rita Waldron, NG & FC). The new building towers over Spencer St residences. Planning Officer has apparently approved the current development, but there is now a new application which

cannot be accessed online. The council appears to have made some errors in timing, especially with partially granted permissions. Spencer St residents have befriended the Planning Officer and have no wish to spoil that relationship.

This throws up various questions: a) What are the policies for the area; b) Are they being enforced? There are apparently 3 issues which give cause for concern with this development, but they cannot be "called in" in retrospect.

Alec Campbell is now Council Leader and has offered a meeting about parking but it may be extendable to the above issue too. Meeting to be set up for the beginning of July with FC & BC.

7.2. City Centre Opportunity Site Nothing to report.

7.3. 1 Selby Avenue replacement windows Plastic windows appear to have been installed without planning permission. JD has contacted the Planning Department who promised to keep her informed.

## **8. Parking and The Parking Shop**

Clarification is required for new arrangements for collecting permits and vouchers.

a) JD to follow up on refunds as there is no word on the website FAQs yet.

b) It is not clear how/where residents may collect vouchers they have ordered.

c) Opening times for the council department now dealing with this are still to be advised, though it is understood that for anyone not online, it has to be done by post or by dropping in to the Council Offices (depending on opening times!)

d) The whereabouts of the promised street notices on this subject have never been clarified by Council. The committee discussed the effects of all-day parking, the effects on the elderly of the changes in visitor parking, the possibility of increasing the resident parking permit prices to cover vouchers. It is not apparent why the system is not currently viable or what was considered in addition to the visitor vouchers price increase.

Other RAs are now getting involved with this issue as is Councillor Simon Grover who has asked for input on the subject of a cost-effective style of voucher and whether the cost of the 4-hour voucher can be increased a little in order to cover costs.

BC to respond to Simon Grover.

BC

## **9. Flight Paths**

It was noted that a consultation on this subject is now open. It affects areas to the north of ARA territory rather than immediate environs.

## **10. Local Elections**

It was noted that Roma Mills (Lab) lost her council seat to Charlotte Hogg (Lib Dem) but that Chris White and Sandy Walkington both held their seats.

## **11. Jubilee Hall**

There is a new RA around the Jubilee area because they think that this (and the Aboyne Lodge playing fields) might be vulnerable to development. Member of ARA to attend next meeting.

## **12. Urban Garden**

It was noted that a new Urban Garden will be at the back of the Russell Avenue carpark. NCP and FoodSmiles involved.

## **13. How ARA communicates**

Further research has shown that Facebook is not the way for ARA to communicate. Emails have proved efficacious.

**14. Larks in the Parks**

2 July. Health & Safety form being filled by FC. ARA will share a stall with Verulam RA and will have banner and hand-outs with a map of the area to show who is eligible and what we have so far achieved. FC, CM, JD to cover the day.

**15. AOB**

None.

**15. Future Meetings**

15.1. Street Reps meeting 14 September 2017 at 4 Selby Avenue. Preparation for subscription collection.

ALL

15.2. Committee Meeting

Thursday 23 November 2017 (venue tbc) to decide next year's AGM date.

The meeting ended at 9.30pm